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Ontario Department of Agriculture
CIRCULAR No. 2

EGG PRODUCTION

IN

CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

By

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The building in the foreground is an ideal hen house for a back yard. Its location is not to be recommended however.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY, 1917

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1890-1891

1891-1892

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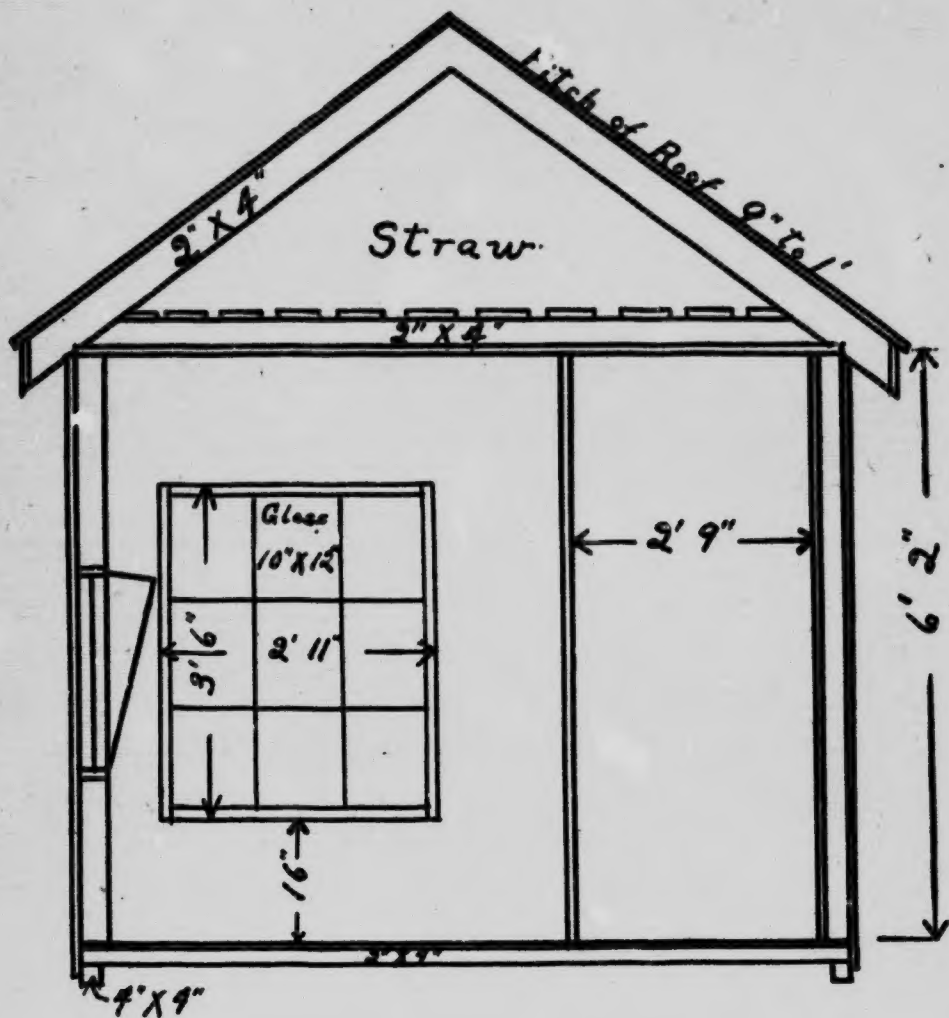
CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

W. R. GRAHAM, O.A.C., GUELPH.

Every local citizen is trying to do his or her bit to win the war. One of the ways the citizens of the cities, towns and villages can assist considerably is by keeping from six to a dozen laying hens in the backyard. Canada has been exporting a few eggs since the outbreak of the war, but for a number of years she was an importing country. The mother country is looking to us for a supply of eggs, and every egg consumed at home means that many less for export. *Help win the war by trying 'o produce enough eggs for your own use.* The large source of supply comes from the farm, and every one you produce from a few hens in your backyard means about that many more of the farmers' eggs for export. It will not require a very large initial investment, and but very little time. Fifteen minutes a day will look after the hens. You probably have one-third enough food in the way of table scraps to feed the flock. Furthermore, you will get a certain amount of pleasure, possibly profit, from them. It does not require a large plot of ground to keep a few hens during the summer or for a year or two. It is not a question whether they will yield a direct profit to you or not, but is a question of service to the Empire.

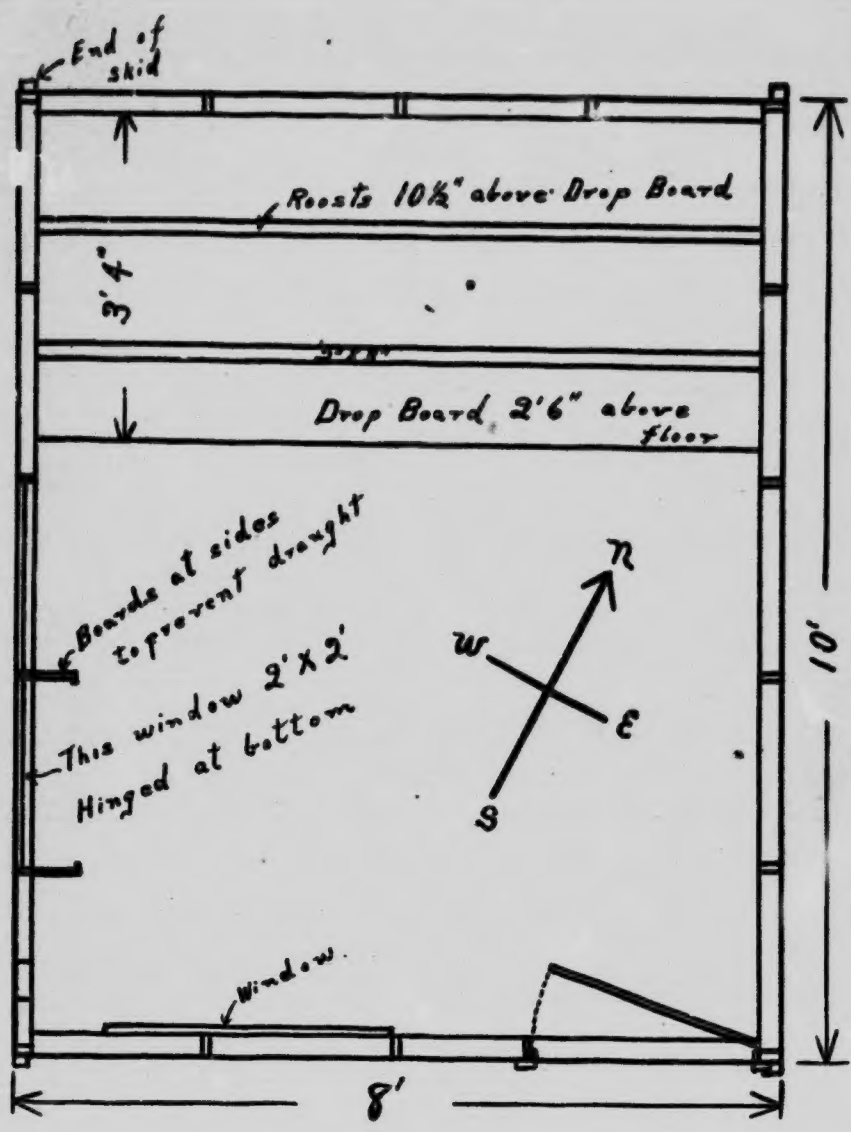
SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Each year there are many hens sold alive in the wholesale and retail markets. Almost every hen that is killed for market this season means from six to nine dozen less eggs produced. Moreover, many of these are what are termed light or small hens of such breeds or crosses as Leghorns, Minorcas, etc. The old hens are fair to good summer layers and are not very heavy consumers of food. No doubt you will find the seller glad to select you a few of the best for your purpose. Upon the approach of



Elevation South End

IDEAL HEN HOUSE FOR A BACK YARD.



Ground Plan. 8' X 10'

IDEAL HEN HOUSE FOR A BACK YARD.

Autumn, or at any other time you wish to dispose of the little flock, either use them on your own table or take them back to the dealer. Furthermore, you can go back to the dealer in September to December and have him select a few pullets for you that are being sent to market. You can help more by buying market poultry than by going to the farmer. The large hens represent more food to the race, and sell at a higher price. The smaller hens cost less to feed and are sold usually at fewer cents per pound and are possibly better egg producers during the summer. Those who wish to keep pure-bred hens, or have the flock uniform, will find a source of supply from a number of the large growers who will have surplus stock for sale at reasonable prices after June 1st or when the hatching season is over. The young stock coming on usually forces the large grower to sell his old stock to some degree.

Telephone or call on the wholesale dealers of poultry and eggs in your locality. No doubt they will be glad to co-operate in your efforts.

HOUSING.

An expensive building is not necessary. The coop requires to be kept clean and dry. It should have, if possible, a little sunlight especially in the forenoon and at the same time the birds should have access to shade during the heat of the day. A box six feet long and three feet square at the ends will accommodate six hens. The top or roof must shed the rain, and of course should be slanting. A covering of roofing paper will answer. To protect your flower beds and gardens build a little yard about the size of the coop and cover the same with wire netting. Build it in sections so that you can move it from time to time as the ground becomes dirty. It need not be over two or three feet high when covered.

Below is given a design of a much more expensive but better appearing house. This house will hold from twelve to eighteen hens.

BILL OF MATERIAL.

- 20 pieces 2" x 4" x 12' rough hemlock—studs, rafters, girts.
- 4 pieces 2" x 4" x 10' rough hemlock—plates and sills.
- 4 pieces 2" x 4" x 16' rough hemlock—collar ties.
- 180 feet 1" rough hemlock—roof boards and strip on collar ties.
- 1½ sq. shingles or prepared roofing.
- 230 feet face measure ¾" matched sheeting for outside walls, pine.
- 27 feet ¾" matched flooring, 8' or 16' lengths, pine—drop board.
- 8 pieces ¾" x 6" x 12' pine, dressed 2 sides—cornice.

100 feet run, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pine, dressed 2 sides—casing, etc.
 60 feet $\frac{3}{4}$ " hemlock, sheeting for inside, for north end.
 2 pieces 2" x 3" x 10' pine—roosts.
 1 sash 2' 11" x 3' 6" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "; 9 lots 10" x 12".
 2 sash 2' x 2' $1\frac{1}{2}$ "; 4 lots 10" x 10".

Cost of lumber without floor, \$28.00.

BILL OF MATERIAL FOR WOOD FLOOR.

80 feet face 1" matched flooring, pine.
 6 pieces 2" x 4" x 8' hemlock joist.
 2 pieces 4" x 4" x 12' runners.
 Cost, \$5.00.

Cost of cement floor and foundation, \$15.00.

FEEDING.

Fowls require grain, vegetables, or grass, and some meat food. Your sources of green food will probably be lawn clippings, waste vegetable such as lettuce leaves, pieces of cabbage and other vegetables either cooked or raw. If cooked you can wisely mix with them about twice their bulk of shorts or middlings and feed the hens once a day all they will eat, but not more. To this wet food or mash should be added a small handful of meat scrap, either table waste or the animal meat sold by poultry supply dealers.

Wheat is considered the best grain. Corn and wheat are good, or many of the prepared scratch foods offered by dealers are excellent. Give each hen about one-half handful every morning and night, and the wet mash at noon. Be sure once each day they get all they will eat, but do not leave food lying around.

In addition hens require grit to grind their food and oyster shell to supply the shell of the eggs. Keep these in little boxes or pails constantly before the hens. Do not feed ham or corned beef. Be careful of household waste that is very salty.

Paint the nest and roost about every ten days with coal-oil to keep the vermin in check. Digging the run once or twice a month is good for the hens and gives you some exercise.

Always supply plenty of *clean* water. Sour milk or buttermilk is excellent to dampen the shorts or as a drink. When sour milk is given as a drink no other meat food is required.
